

"Amateur Radio: Combining communication experience with modern digital techniques."

## ***SARL Field Day 20 and 21 November***

*SARL 80 m Club CW Contest 24 November  
CQ WW DX CW Contest 27 and 28 November  
PEARS HF Contest 6 December  
ARRL 10 Metre Contest 11 and 12 December*



### **Win a 2011 ARRL Handbook in the SARL Field Day Contest**

The Boland Amateur Radio Club invites all radio amateurs to join in the last event of the SARL 85 year anniversary celebrations by making a contact with ZS85SARL during the SARL field day weekend. The competition will take place from 10:00 UTC Saturday 20 November until 10:00 UTC on Sunday 21 November 2010. Get the contest rules on [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za).

BARK will set up a field station and operate as ZS85SARL. All amateurs who make contact with the special event field day station will participate in a lucky draw. You do not have to be a field station to qualify for the lucky draw.

The first participant drawn, and who is a SARL member, will win the brand new 2011 Hardcover ARRL Handbook. The first name drawn from a non-SARL member will receive a free membership of the SARL for the current financial year.

This is an ideal opportunity for a radio club outing - maybe combine it with the club's year-end function or something like that. Go camping with a BBQ or potjiekos on Saturday evening and a champagne breakfast on Sunday morning. Get the tents and caravans out and have a weekend out of the rat race!



### **Christmas in Bethlehem - amateur radio special event**

Members of the Barrow Amateur Radio Club will activate special event Christmas station WR4BC from Bethlehem, Georgia, between 17:00 UTC 4 December and 17:00 UTC 5 December. Suggested frequencies are (-/+ QRM): CW/Digital/RTTY - 3 575, 7 065, 14 065, 21 065 and 28 065 kHz and SSB - 3 875, 7 265, 14 265, 21 365 and 28 465 kHz.

A limited-edition collectable QSL will be issued, complete with the Bethlehem Christmas Postmark, to arrive at your QTH before Christmas. To receive YOUR QSL card, make the QSO and send 1 USD to the address below to cover postage and printing. QSL to the Barrow Amateur Radio Club, 287 Crescent Court, Winder, GA 30680. For more information, please visit the club Web site at <http://www.barrowhamradio.org>

HF Happenings 430



## November

6 RaDAR Contest  
6/7 ARRL CW Sweepstakes  
7 National Marine Day  
11 Armistice Day  
14 Remembrance Sunday  
20/21 SARL Field Day  
20/21 ARRL SSB sweepstakes  
21 Closing date CW WW DX Phone logs  
24 SARL Club CW Contest  
27/28 CQ WW DX CW Contest

## December

1 World Aids Day; Closing date SARL Club logs  
2 Hanukkah  
4/5 ARRL 160 metre contest  
5 PEARS HF contest  
6 Closing date SARL Field Day logs  
7 Muharram  
10 Schools close; Int. Human Rights Day - Namibia  
11/12 ARRL 10 metre contest  
16 Day of Reconciliation  
21 Summer Solstice; closing date CQ WW DX CW logs  
25 Christmas Day  
26 Family Day  
27 Public Holiday  
31 Closing CQ DX Marathon; Closing date PEARS HF logs

Where are the guys and girls from the Vrystaat Amateur Radio Club? You can also run an amateur radio special Christmas event from Bethlehem in the Free State. How about it?

## 2010 Heritage Day Sprint Results

The results of the 2010 Heritage Day sprint held on 24 September have been published. Only six log sheets were received. No blockhouse station was active. The Pretoria ARC, ZS6PTA, was the only Heritage station. Five general class logs were received. Due to the low quantity of logs received, it was decided to reward each participant with a certificate. The top three scorers will each still receive the placement certificates.

If you have submitted a logs and it is not on this list, contact Riaan at [ZS4PR@QSL.NET](mailto:ZS4PR@QSL.NET). Congratulations to the winners and thank you for the entries.

The winners are ZS6PTA, operated by ZS6PJH, ZR6RAF and ZS6BTY from Fort Skanskop with 378 points achieved. The five general logs are scored as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Wessie Wessels, ZS2A, 138 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> Pam Momberg, ZS6APT, 124 points  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mitch Rundle, ZS2DK, 120  
4<sup>th</sup> Derek Stuart, ZS2J, 58 points  
5<sup>th</sup> Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC, 36 points

## International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend 2011

Strong interest is again being demonstrated in this popular annual 48 hour premier international goodwill event which sees radio amateurs going portable to put lighthouses on air.

Some 70 registrations from 18 countries have been received for the event on 20 and 21 August 2011, showing their enthusiasm to be part of it nine months in advance.

Australia has 20 registrations so far, including a cluster in Bass Strait, a narrow dangerous stretch of water between Tasmania and mainland Australia that has over 700 shipwrecks. Lighthouse navigation when introduced greatly improved shipping safety.

On King Island, both lighthouses will be activated this year. Tony Hambling, VK3VTH/7, at the Currie Lighthouse while Laurie Davison, VK7ZE, has chosen the Cape Wickham light. And across the Strait at Gabo Island, Trevor Close, VK3ATX, has registered and is to be accompanied by a number of others.

Also in the Bass Strait cluster is the Gippsland Gate Radio and Electronics Club, VK3BJA, at Wilson's Promontory Lighthouse, the southernmost point of the Australian mainland. Western Victoria is Cape Otway Light registered by Michael Adams, VK3KMA, Point Lonsdale to be activated by the Geelong Amateur Radio Club, VK3ATL, and Table Cape Light registered by Wayne Hays, VK7FWAY.

Among the other countries with multiple registrations are England, Germany, Holland, Italy, New Zealand, and the United States of America.





To find out more about the 14<sup>th</sup> International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend on 20 and 21 August, or to make an online registration, visit the website [illw.net](http://illw.net)

## 2011 SAARDT Construction Competition with Great Prizes

At its Board meeting on Thursday last week the South African Amateur Radio Development Trust has announced details of its 2011 construction competition. As one of the main objectives of the Development Trust is to promote and expand innovation in Amateur Radio technology, activities during 2011 will focus on various aspects of what makes amateur the most rewarding of all scientific hobbies.

The 2011 construction competition focuses on construction and operation and not on circuit design. Participants may search the web and the literature for any design. The focus is on the ingenuity displayed in the construction of one of the following two projects:

A QRP transmitter with an upper power limit of 5 watts using the minimum of components operating on any amateur band or a minimum component transistor receiver operating on any amateur band.

The competition is in two parts. Part 1 is a paper entry with a brief write-up, a circuit diagram and a photograph of the prototype or breadboard.

From the first phase entries, three finalists will be chosen to go through to the second phase during which the project must be constructed, tested, be fully operational and suitably housed and submitted with a full write up and circuit diagram. Each finalist will receive a grant of R500 to build the project.

The winner will be invited to the annual awards lunch in May 2011 and presented with a 2011 ARRL Handbook, and a choice of three SARL construction kits and a year of free membership of the SARL.

The closing dates are as follows: Phase one 30 January 2011. The three finalists will be announced on 15 February 2011. The closing date for phase two is 15 April 2011. Full details and an entry form can be found on [www.amateurradio.org.za](http://www.amateurradio.org.za).

## Ham Square - for amateur radio operators on the move

Amateur radio enthusiasts who also own an iPhone may find this new application from Mark Turner, G7LEU, quite useful - especially if they are constantly on the move.

Mark, G7LEU, has developed an iPhone application that may be of interest. The application, Ham Square, uses the iPhone's built-in GPS receiver to determine the current location, and then presents that location in decimal degrees and Maidenhead Locator, i.e. it shows the current "square."

The application is free and available to iPhone users via the iTunes App Store as usual. Please see <http://www.kramstuff.com/> for more details and a screenshot.

## DXCC News

J5NAR, Guinea-Bissau, the 2010 operation has been approved for DXCC credit. If you have had this operation rejected in a recent submission, please send a note to [dxcc@arrl.org](mailto:dxcc@arrl.org).

## African DX

Senegal, 6W. Stan, EI6DX, [www.ei6dx.com](http://www.ei6dx.com), will participate in the CQ WW DX CW Contest as 6V7Y. Outside the contest he will operate holiday style as 6W/EI6DX, typically during his evenings and nights on 160, 80 and 30 metres CW. QSL via RX3RC, direct or bureau.





Sierra Leone, 9L. Roger, G3SXW, and the Voodoo Contest Group will participate in the CQ WW DX CW Contest as 9L5VT from Sierra Leone. This year's project is dedicated to Vince, K5VT, who became SK recently. QSL via G3SXW and LoTW.

Morocco, CN. Juan, EA5BLJ, Dario, EA5CP, and Jose, EA5YU, will be active as 5C5T from the Association Royale des Radio Amateurs du Maroc's (ARRAM) HQ in Rabat from 25 to 28 November. They will operate CW only on 80 - 10 metres, including a Multi-Single entry in the CQ WW DX CW Contest. QSL via EA5YU, direct or bureau.

Ghana, 9G. Alan, G3XAX, is expected to be active again as 9G5XA for the BERU Commonwealth Contest, 12 and 13 March 2011, from Accra, Ghana. QSL via G3SWH. Visit the Commonwealth Contest web at [www.beru.org.uk](http://www.beru.org.uk) for more information.

## African Islands on the Air

Madagascar, 5R. Eric, F6ICX will be active again as 5R8IC from Sainte-Marie Island (AF-090) from 15 November to 18 December. He will operate holiday style CW, RTTY and PSK63. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

Morocco, CN. Alfredo, IK7JWX, and others are planning an IOTA expedition to take place from Herne Island (AF-068) between 1 and 5 February 2011. The needed authorisation as well as a special callsign has been applied for through the Association Royale des Radio Amateurs du Maroc. Further information is expected to be found in due course on [www.i8lwl.it](http://www.i8lwl.it)

Seychelles, S7. Noboru, JA2AAU (S79AU), Iwao, JA2LSS (S79SS), Seiji, JA2ATE (S79TE) and Tug, JA2ZS (S79ZS) will be active from Mahe (AF-024), Seychelles from 19 to 27 November. They plan to operate CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK on 160 - 6 metres. QSL via home calls, direct or bureau.

Tristan da Cunha, ZD9. Dieter, DJ2EH, will be active from Tristan da Cunha (AF-029) between 20 November and 8 December, "if the vessel is on time." He will get his call sign upon arrival, and he plans to operate CW, SSB and RTTY using a vertical for 160 - 30 metres and a three-element wire beam.

## What is the longest message only made up of dits?

The latest in the Creative Compendium's challenge for consecutive dits is contributed by Jeff, VE3FRX, with "RADISHES" (15) and "FISH SHISH KEBABS" by Greg, KG6AZX, with 26 consecutive dits! I suppose there are no RADISH SHISH KEBABS or there would be a 27-ditter.

Our original provocateur, Jerry, VE6CNU, wonders what word has the longest string of alternating dots and dashes, such as that in the middle of "MARKET."

## Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 1 to 8 November 2010.

QRP Fox Hunt  
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 17 November

Mode: CW  
Bands: 80 m Only







Classes: Single Op - Fox or Hound  
Max power: 5 watts  
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
Multipliers: (none)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 18 November 2010  
E-mail logs to: (see rules)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
[http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm)

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint  
01:30 - 03:30 UTC 18 November  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 80, 40 and 20 m  
Classes: (none)  
Max power: 5 watts  
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC no or power  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member  
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once  
Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1.5 x if bug, 1 x if other  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult  
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 21 November 2010  
E-mail logs to:  
naqcc33[at]windstream[dot]net  
Post log summary at:  
[http://home.windstream.net/yoel/sprint\\_submit\\_log.html](http://home.windstream.net/yoel/sprint_submit_log.html)  
Mail logs to: John Shannon, K3WWP, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA, 16201, USA  
Find rules at:  
<http://home.windstream.net/yoel/sprint201011.html>

QRP Fox Hunt  
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 19 November  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 40 m Only  
Classes: Single Op - Fox or Hound  
Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
Multipliers: (none)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 20 November 2010  
E-mail logs to: (see rules)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
[http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm)

NCCC Sprint  
02:00 - 03:00 UTC 19 November  
Mode: (see rules)  
Bands: (see rules)  
Classes: (none)  
Exchange: (see rules)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 21 November 2010  
E-mail logs to: (none)  
Post log summary at:  
<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

YO International PSK31 Contest  
16:00 - 22:00 UTC 19 November  
Mode: PSK31  
Bands: 80 m Only  
Classes: Single Op  
Max power: 50 watts  
Exchange: YO: RST, serial no and county; non-YO: RST, serial no and country  
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with YO station; 1 point per QSO with non-YO station  
Multipliers: Each YO county and each country  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 4 December 2010  
E-mail logs to: pskyo[at]yo5crq[dot]ro  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
<http://www.yo5crq.ro/Rules2010EN.htm>

PODXS 070 Club Jamboree





00:00 - 23:59 UTC 20 November

Mode: PSK31

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Members: Name, state, province or country and member no; Non-members: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 11 December 2010

E-mail logs to: w6qe[at]verizon[dot]net

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.podxs070.com/2010-jamboree>

SARL Field Day Contest

10:00 UTC 20 November to 10:00 UTC 21 November

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single-Op Field - QRP, Low or High; Multi-Op Field - QRP, Low or High; General - QRP, Low or High

Max power: QRP: 5 watt; LP: 6-50 watt; HP: 51-100 watt

Exchange: RS(T) and category (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with General station in same area; 2 points per QSO with General station in different area; 3 points per QSO with Field station in same area; 4 points per QSO with Field station in different area

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 6 December 2010

E-mail logs to:

zs4bfn[at]netactive[dot]co[dot]za

Mail logs to: SARL Field Day Contest, PO Box 12104, Brandhof, 9324

Find rules at:

<http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/SARL%202010%20Contest%20Manual.pdf>

LZ DX Contest

12:00 UTC 20 November to 12:00 UTC 21 November

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - Mixed, CW or SSB; Single Op All Band - Mixed QRP; Single Op Single Band - Mixed; Multi-Single Mixed; SWL

Max power: Non-QRP: >10 watt; QRP: 10 watt

Exchange: LZ: RS(T) and 2-letter district; non-LZ: RS(T) and ITU Zone no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with LZ station; 3 points per QSO with different continent; 1 point per QSO with same continent

Multipliers: Each ITU zone and each district once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 21 December 2010

E-mail logs to: lzdx[at]yahoo[dot]com

Mail logs to: BFRA, PO Box 830, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Find rules at:

<http://lzdx.bfra.org/rulesen.html>

Feld Hell Sprint

16:00 -18:00 UTC 20 November

Mode: Feld Hell

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: 100 watt

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each state, province and country once only

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 1 December 2010

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests>

All Austrian 160-Metre Contest





16:00 UTC 20 November to 07:00 UTC 21 November

Mode: CW

Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: Single Op; Multi-Single; SWL

Exchange: OE: RST, serial no and District Code

non-OE: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each district code and each DXCC/WAE country

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 December 2010

E-mail logs to: hf-contest[at]oevsv[dot]at

Upload log at:

<http://contestrobot.aoec160m.oevsv.at>

Mail logs to: OEVSV-HQ, HF-Contest Manager, Eisvogelgasse 4/1, A-1060 Vienna, Austria

Find rules at:

[http://www.oevsv.at/export/oevsv/download/AOEC/Rules\\_AOEC\\_160m.pdf](http://www.oevsv.at/export/oevsv/download/AOEC/Rules_AOEC_160m.pdf)

ARRL SSB Sweepstakes Contest

21:00 UTC 20 November to 03:00 UTC 22 November

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, Low, High or Unlimited; Multi-Op; School Club - College, Technical or Secondary

Max operating hours: 24 with at least 30 minute off times

Max power: HP: >150 watt; LP: 150 watt; QRP: 5 watt

Exchange: Serial no, Precedence (Q, A, B, U, M or S), your call sign, check and ARRL/RAC Section

Work stations: Once only

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO

Multipliers: Each ARRL/RAC section and VE NT once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 7 December 2010

E-mail logs to: SSPhone[at]arrl[dot]org

Mail logs to: November SS Phone, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

RSGB 2<sup>nd</sup> 1,8 MHz CW Contest

21:00 UTC 20 November to 01:00 UTC 21 November

Mode: CW

Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: Single Op - UK or Overseas

Exchange: UK: RST, serial no and District Code; non-UK: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 3 points per QSO; 5 additional points for first QSO with each UK district; UK stations: 5 additional points for first QSO with each country outside of UK

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 6 December 2010

Upload log at:

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: RSGB-G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7AF, England

Find rules at:

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2010/r18mhz.shtml>

NA Collegiate ARC SSB Championship

21:00 UTC 20 November to 03:00 UTC 22 November

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: School Club (College)

Max operating hours: 24 with at least 30 minute off times

Max power: HP: >150 watt; LP: 150 watt; QRP: 5 watt

Exchange: Serial no, Precedence (Q, A, B, U, M or S), your call sign, check and ARRL/RAC Section

Work stations: Once only

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO

Multipliers: Each ARRL/RAC section and VE NT once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 7 December 2010

E-mail logs to: SSPhone[at]arrl[dot]org





E-mail log summary to: [wm5r\[at\]wm5r\[dot\]org](mailto:wm5r[at]wm5r[dot]org)  
Mail logs to: November SS Phone, ARRL, 225  
Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA  
Find rules at:  
<http://www.collegiatechampionship.org/rules/>

EU PSK63 QSO Party  
00:00 - 24:00 UTC 21 November  
Mode: BPSK63  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m  
Classes: Single Op  
Max power: 100 watts  
Exchange: EPC Members: RST, "EPC" and 3-  
digit EPC member number; non-EU: RST and  
3-digit QSO no  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-EPC  
member; 5 points per QSO EPC member  
Multipliers: Each EPC member once per band  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO  
points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 21 December 2010  
E-mail logs to: [ut7fp\[at\]srars\[dot\]org](mailto:ut7fp[at]srars[dot]org)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
[http://eu.srars.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=66&Itemid=141](http://eu.srars.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=66&Itemid=141)

Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party  
13:00 - 15:00 UTC 21 November (40 m) and  
15:00 - 17:00 UTC 21 November (80 m)  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 80 and 40 m  
Classes: A. Single Op LP, TX and RX: Home-  
brew or >30 years; B. Single Op LP, TX or RX:  
Homebrew or >30 years; C. Single Op QRP,  
Eqpt: Homebrew or >30 years; D. Single Op:  
Valved Eqpt Marketed before 1965 or Home-  
brew

Max power: LP: 100 W; QRP: 5 W  
Exchange: RST, serial no, "/" and class  
QSO Points: (see rules)  
Multipliers: (none)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO  
points  
Submit logs by: 21 December 2010  
E-mail logs to: [hot\[at\]grpcc\[dot\]de](mailto:hot[at]grpcc[dot]de)  
Mail logs to: Lutz Gutheil, DL1RNN, Bergstr.  
17, D-38446 Wolfsburg, Germany  
Find rules at:  
<http://www.grpcc.de/contestrules/hotr.html>

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest  
02:00 - 04:00 UTC 22 November  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Band; All Band  
Max power: 5 watts  
Exchange: RST, state, province or country  
and member no or power  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-  
member; 3 points per QSO with member on  
same continent; 5 points per QSO with mem-  
ber on different continent  
Multipliers: Each state, province or country  
once; Multiplier mults by 2 if >50 members  
worked  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO  
points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 28 November 2010  
E-mail logs to: (none)  
Upload log at:  
<http://www.fpgrp.com/autolog.php>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
<http://www.fpgrp.com/fpgrpapun.php>

## Next Week's Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 24 November  
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 24 November  
RSGB 80 m CW Club Sprint, 20:00 - 21:30 UTC 24 November  
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 26 November  
CQ Worldwide DX CW Contest, 00:00 UTC 27 November to 24:00 UTC 28 November







## History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW. The week starting Monday 15 November 2010.

- 1477 - W Caxton prints first book in English 'Dictes and Sayengis of the Phylosophers'
- 1492 - Columbus first notes use of tobacco by natives
- 1837 - Pittman publishes his shorthand "Stenographic Sound-Hand"
- 1872 - World's largest gold nugget (215 kg) found in New South Wales
- 1877 - Tom Edison announces his "talking machine" invention
- 1888 - William Bundy patents the timecard clock
- 1889 - Britain's W. Friese-Green patents his motion picture camera
- 1911 - Bill Hart completes first cross country flight by an Australian
- 1920 - QANTAS (Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services Ltd.) registered
- 1928 - Micky Mouse first appears in 'Steamboat Willie'

## The Doctor Is In: Pacemakers and RF

Schley Cox, W4AMW, of Owensboro, Kentucky, told the Doctor that he is headed to see the cardiologist next week about a pacemaker. He has already started researching their use around RF and says he is happy to go all low power (QRP), if that is what is called for. Schley mentioned that he might also be able to operate his rig remotely - perhaps 20 feet away, but he needs to know how to measure stray RF in the shack itself.

Here is what the Doctor had to say:

I have not received actual reports of any pacemaker problems and that seems to go along with the info on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/pacemaker>. Note that there are no power levels (or field strength) limits noted there, nor have I found any on manufacturers' Web sites. Thus knowing the actual field strength level in the station may not help. If it were me, I would start by talking to my physician. She won't be able to give you power limits, but perhaps could indicate symptoms to watch for while on the air so you could take appropriate action quickly if called for.

I would start with a careful RF safety evaluation, as required by the FCC anyway. While the FCC guidelines were not based on pacemaker interference, they should result in a reasonably safe environment. If your station is properly set up - without common mode feed line current, for example - most radiation should surround the antenna and there should not be much RF within the shack.

Calibrated RF field strength meters are available, but are quite expensive. Relative measurement is pretty easy - look at any recent ARRL Handbook. If you had a simple field strength meter running at all times in the station (I am thinking the diode and micro-amp meter type that does not require power), you could see if anything changed, and diagnose and repair as needed.

*Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newslines, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.*

*Newsletter editors are most welcome to use material from HF Happenings, just remember to acknowledge the source (which could be any one of the names mentioned above). HF Happenings can be provided in MS Word format.*

